



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 35, No. 6
February 2019

With the release of the latest batch of field trips (Feb. through May) there just isn't space for my usual editorial. It will return next month, however. In the meantime, enjoy exploring the list of upcoming programs and trips, and start planning your local birding adventures for the soon-to-be-arriving spring season.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Bruce Beehler presents

North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

In late March 2015, ornithologist Bruce M. Beehler set off on a solo four-month trek to track songbird migration and the northward progress of spring through America. Traveling via car, canoe, and bike and on foot, Beehler followed woodland warblers and other Neotropical songbird species from the southern border of Texas, where the birds first arrive after their winter sojourns in South America and the Caribbean, northward through the Mississippi drainage to its headwaters in Minnesota and onward to their nesting grounds in the north woods of Ontario. In *North on the Wing*, Beehler describes both the epic migration of songbirds across the country and the gradual dawning of springtime through the U.S. heartland—the blossoming of wildflowers, the chorusing of frogs, the leafing out of forest canopies—and also tells the stories of the people and institutions dedicated to studying and conserving the critical habitats and processes of spring songbird migration. Inspired in part by Edwin Way Teale's landmark 1951 book *North with the Spring*, this book—part travelogue, part field journal, and part environmental and cultural history—is a fascinating first-hand account of a once-in-a-lifetime journey. It engages readers in the wonders of spring migration and serves as a call for the need to conserve, restore, and expand bird habitats to preserve them for future generations of both birds and humans.

Bruce M. Beehler is an ornithologist, naturalist, conservationist, author, and lecturer. He is a research associate in the division of birds at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He is best known for coleading a survey of biological diversity in the Foja Mountains of Papua New Guinea in 2005, during which the Wattled Smoky Honeyeater was discovered and the Bronze Parotia and Golden-fronted Bowerbird were photographed for the first time. He has published eleven books about nature, most recently *Birds of New Guinea*.

COMING PROGRAMS

March 11, 2019. Isabel Brofsky, M.Sc. candidate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Farmland Bird Research in the Connecticut River Valley.

April 8, 2019. Sam Fried. Birding Honduras.

May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff. Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi. Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least *two days* in advance of the trip to register *and* if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

Illustrated Owls: A Who's Hoo from the Museums's Vault. Eric Carle Museum, Central Gallery, through April 21. Take an indoor field trip with or without your children and/or grandchildren to the Museum (125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA) to view this delightful exhibit depicting some of our famous owl characters in children's books. You will find illustrations from Beatrix Potter and A.A. Milne among other favorites. Admission is \$9.00 for Adults and \$6.00 for Seniors (free with a pass from your local library).

Date TBD. Westover Air Force Base. Half Day. Mike Locher will coordinate and lead the HBC's annual trip to New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) **by May 1** to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/M)

Sunday Morning, March 10, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Connecticut River Waterfowl. Join Mike Locher as he looks for ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. We'll start in the south (Holyoke Dam and Canal Park in South Hadley) and then head north (Hadley Cove, Great Pond, Turner's Falls Power Canal, and Barton's Cove). Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for further information. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 am. (E/M)

Wednesday Morning, April 10, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge. Check out the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley which can produce a wonderful variety of early Spring migrant species, including American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Rusty Blackbird—plus Fox and Chipping Sparrows, among others. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/M)

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Ashley Reservoir. Join Mike Locher as he looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet in the Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 15 (Holyoke Mall) off Rt 91 at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for more information. (E/M with one optional S section)

Saturday Morning, April 27, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge. Check out the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley which can produce a wonderful variety of early Spring migrant species including American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Rusty Blackbird, plus Fox
Hampshire Bird Club. February, 2019. Page 2 of 4.

and Chipping Sparrows, among others. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/ M)

Sunday, May 12, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Mineral Hills Conservation Area. Join Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins as they lead birders through one of the lesser-known Northampton conservation areas. This has been a consistent place for Prairie Warblers over the past several years. For information, contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or mmerithew@comcast.net). Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence, MA) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday Morning, May 18, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge. May is a great birding month at the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley. A nice variety of Spring migrants and breeding species are possible including Northern Harrier, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow, Least and Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Barn Swallow, Wood and Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Brown Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting and numerous warbler species. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/ M)

Sunday, May 19, 6:00 a.m., Half Day, Mt. Holyoke. Join Mike Locher as he hikes up the park road to the top of this local peak hoping for some later Spring migrants and deep-woods breeding specialties including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers (both quite reliable in recent years). Meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 a.m. This is an occasionally steep hike on a paved road. For more information contact Mike (413-585-5864). (M/S)

Thursday-Sunday, May 23-26, Monhegan Island. Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. This charming island and the variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. The weekend promises to be memorable and enjoyable. The trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members and is currently filled. However, if you would like to be put on a waiting list, contact Carol Mardeusz (camardeusz@yahoo.com). Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for further information.

Saturday, May 25, 6:30 a.m., All Day, Hilltown Rambles. Join Dave Gross and Bob Zimmermann as they ramble around the Berkshire hilltowns to look for those migrants that prefer higher elevations than the valley provides. We'll be on the lookout for American Bittern, Sandhill Cranes, Blackburnian Warblers, and Spotted Sandpipers along with anything else we can turn up. There will be a bit of hiking at the Moran Wildlife Area. Meet at the *Northampton Stop & Shop parking lot* at 6:30 a.m. Pack a lunch or pick one up at our stop at the Cummington Creamery. For information or to sign up contact Dave (djgross@gmail.com 413-687-8161) or Bob (zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu 413-626-3381). (E/M/S)

Sunday, May 26, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Knightville Dam. Join Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins as they visit Knightville Dam looking for Spring migrants and local residents. Contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or mmerithew@comcast.net) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road, Florence, MA). (E/M)

Wednesday Morning, May 29, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge. May is a great birding month at the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley. A nice variety of Spring migrants and breeding species are possible including Northern Harrier, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow, Least, and Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Barn Swallow,

Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery, Brown Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting and numerous warbler species. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/ M)

VALLEY FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL

This year's Festival takes place on Saturday, May 4 at MAS Arcadia Sanctuary in Easthampton from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club. Tom Ricardi will be offering a program and there will also be bird banding, bird walks, bird crafts, and activities. Contact Patti Steinman at 413-584-3009 or psteinman@massaudubon.org for more information or to volunteer.

35th ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNING HELP

This spring marks the 35th anniversary of the Hampshire Bird Club and we hope to celebrate with an anniversary party free for the Membership. It's certain to be a good time, but we could use some help planning the event. If you have experience or just would like to have fun helping out we welcome you to join us. Contact Stephen Baker at treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org to join our party committee.

Call for Help – AV and Meeting Setup

Are you a birder and a techie? After many years of providing AV and practical operations for HBC meetings, the retirement of Jaap Van Heerden has left us in need of a Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) to carry on this important function. Our speakers need good technical support, and we all enjoy arriving to a welcoming array of places to sit!

What's needed:

- Coordinator(s) with technology skills to oversee the setup of our excellent audio-visual equipment, and with the computer knowledge to assist speakers in hooking up to our system.
- A pool of non-technical volunteers who will come early to set up chairs and clean up after the meeting. The post-meeting pickup goes very quickly because our HBC membership is wonderfully helpful. Several current volunteers, including the refreshments committee, will continue to help but we need more people.

These operations begin shortly after 4:00 p.m. on meeting day, with everything ready to go by 5:30 (if the speaker is coming for dinner beforehand; if not, set up can begin later, ready to go by 6:30). With 3-4 people, setting up the chairs takes about ½ hour. Full details about the AV setup and the other practical operations are available. With enough volunteers in the pool, not everyone will need to respond at every meeting. If you're interested and able, please email the HBC Board at board@hampshirebirdclub.org. We hope to hear from you!

That's all for this month.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor
323-8417
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org